

Landscape & visual amenity



Current situation

The Amulsar ridge is part of the Zanghezur mountain range, and is characterised by jagged rock exposures rising above smoother, grassed or forested mountains, which are separated by deep, steep-sided gorges, or valleys cut by rivers.

Mountain ridges of the project comprise North Erato, Erato, Tigranes, Artavazdes, and Arshak. These peaks form a low alpine zone with craggy outcrops, dropping to more gently sloping and rounded hills. From the hills, undulating grassy plateaus extend between a network of valleys, which flow into the broad, flat-bottomed valley of the Vorotan River to the east, Spandaryan Reservoir to the south, and across the foothills and plateaus to the steep sided gorge of the Arpa River to the west.

What are the potential issues and impacts?

- The landscape will be affected wherever infrastructure is constructed, and the open pits will permanently change the landscape of the existing rocky peaks of Amulsar mountain.
- Existing views towards Amulsar mountain will experience significant visual change from some locations close to the mine, mostly due to the open pits, Heap Leach Facility and the Barren Rock Storage Facility.
- Various locations in Jermuk, the H-42 road south of Gndevaz and a minor road through the Vorotan Valley will experience permanent visual effects.

What will Lydian do to manage these potential impacts?

- Infrastructure items that will remain after mine closure have been designed so that the final shape of the structures will fit with the existing surrounding landscape.
- Buildings and structures will be designed to be screened by existing topography and vegetated earth berms as far as practical and lighting will be kept to a minimum.

What impacts might remain?

- Significant effects on the landscape will be localised and most evident within a 5km radius. Many impacts will become more neutral once mining has ended due to decommissioning and landscaping.
- Permanent visual effects will remain after closure, however these will become less apparent over time.

